

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT:MBFR: PRESS AND PUBLIC

REF: (A) USNATO 4519; (B) USNATO 4451; (C) STATE 185002

1. WE ARE AWARE OF THE NEED FOR FORMULATING A PRESS

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APPROACH TO MBFR WHICH WILL SERVE SHORT-TERM PRE-NEGOTIATION

MEDIA BACKGROUND REQUIREMENTS. AS THE ACTUAL START OF THE NEGOTIATIONS APPROACHES, MEDIA FOCUS WILL PROBABLY SHIFT TO VIENNA. WE ASSUME PRESS GUIDANCE INITIATIVE ON MOST TACTICAL ISSUES WILL COME FROM THERE, WITH NATO OUTPUT EMPHASIZING ROLE OF ALLIANCE AND GENERAL THEMES. AT THIS STAGE, NATO PUBLIC AFFAIRS COORDINATION AT THE SEPTEMBER 27 SPC MEETING SHOULD IN OUR VIEW BE BASED ON THE MAIN THEMES AS OUTLINED IN REF (C) AND IN REPLY TO REF (B) CURRENTLY IN CLEARANCE HERE. WE CONSIDER THAT ALLIES SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO GO FURTHER IN DEVELOPING COMMON AGREED LINE FOR USE NOW THAN TO DECIDE ON DESIRABLE THEMES FOR EMPHASIS.

2. CONCERNING ITEM (E) IN REF (A), THE US MBFR DELEGATION IS PREPARED TO HAVE ITS PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISER ACT AS REGULAR SPOKESMAN FOR THE ALLIANCE DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE WOULD BE READY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE AD HOC GROUP TO DEVELOP PRESS BACKGROUND MATERIAL DURING WEEK OF OCTOBER 15 FOR USE WITH WESTERN PRESS COMING INTO VIENNA

PRIOR TO OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS.

3. AS REGARDS OVERALL PHILOSOPHY OF OUR APPROACH TO PUBLIC AFFAIRS, WE EXPECT TO TAKE FORTHCOMING POSITION WITH WESTERN PRESS DURING THE TALKS SUBJECT TO REQUIREMENTS OF REASONABLE DEGREE OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROCEEDINGS AND MAINTAINING WORKABLE NEGOTIATING RELATIONSHIP WITH EAST. WE EXPECT OPENING STATEMENTS ON BOTH SIDES TO BE PUBLISHED AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN DELIVERED AND BELIEVE AD HOC GROUP SHOULD DEVOTE SPECIAL EFFORT TO INSURING GENERAL VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THESE OPENING STATEMENTS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO WESTERN PRESS. THE WESTERN OPENING STATEMENTS WILL ALSO SERVE AS SOURCE MATERIAL FOR DETAILED PRESS BRIEFING AT BRUSSELS AND CAPITALS. IN SUBSEQUENT PRESS TREATMENT WE WILL NOT WANT TO GET OUT AHEAD OF DEVELOPMENT, OF OUR POSITION IN TALKS THEMSELVES. RUSH

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